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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest over the intention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to issue travel documents to the residents of this Serbian province. Notwithstanding the contention of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) that they will issue "special travel documents", and not "passports", which does not infringe the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, there is no evidence in the history of United Nations peacekeeping operations of the existence of the practice of issuance of such documents by United Nations representatives to citizens of countries in the territories of which the peacekeeping operations have taken place.

The realization of this intention, one in a series of arbitrary actions taken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in contravention of his mandate, would amount to yet another flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 in wanton disregard for the Security Council and the Charter of the United Nations. It would also amount to a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the consequences of which should be disregarded by the States Members of the world Organization as they would be conducive to the realization of the aspirations of ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo and Metohija and the creation of Greater Albania.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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